

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1424
AS F22

July 15th supplement to May 1, 1946 fact sheet



Help American Farmers Save the World from Starvation

Fact Sheet : 1946 FARM LABOR PROGRAM
EXTENSION SERVICE,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

JULY 15 SITUATION

Food: The world food crisis is not over. President Truman's Famine Emergency Committee says that the world food situation thru 1947 will call for a continuation of the vigorous measures now being carried on. There is increasing agreement in the belief that it will be 1950 before normal food stocks are restored.

President Truman says: "The crisis is not over. Cooperation and a determined effort by the public - by each one of us - must be continued thru the coming months of hunger abroad."

D. A. FitzGerald, secretary general of the International Emergency Food Council says: "The world food emergency is not yet over. It will still be in an acute stage until the 1946 crops are harvested, and in a less acute stage until 1947 crops are in."

Leslie A. Wheeler, director Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, says: "Careful utilization of all food products must be continued to avoid a critical food shortage prior to availability of 1947 crops."

Chester C. Davis, chairman of President Truman's Famine Emergency Committee says: "The United States has made an impressive record - more than fulfilled its commitments - in shipping food supplies abroad for famine relief, but any feeling that the world food crisis has been ended by that success is wholly unwarranted."

Director Joseph S. Davis, of Leland Stanford's world famous Food Research Institute says: "The food crisis is not just another ballyhooed emergency exaggerated out of all relation to the truth. It is real, huge and dangerous."

1946 Crops: On the basis of July 1 conditions U. S. crop production will be higher than any other year, except 1942, and may exceed that if weather remains favorable and sufficient harvesting labor is available. With a successful harvest, these crops will be a tremendous factor in easing the world famine situation after supplying the needs of our own people.

The July USDA national crop report says: "The current outlook for total crop production has seldom been surpassed....Except for 1942 the current condition of all crops, is the best in 7 years..... Indicated yields of most crops are above average.....The aggregate acreage of 52 crops for harvest is indicated at almost 346 million acres.....Aggregate production 24% larger than the 1923-32 average is indicated, 3.6 higher than in 1945. If attained this will exceed even the previous high level of 1942."

Labor Supply: To date, with the help of 50,000 foreign workers, and 19,000 German prisoners of war (now finally withdrawn), it has been possible to meet the early production and harvesting peaks without loss of crops due to lack of labor. There has been a slow but steady increase in the number of workers on the farms. This is due to the return of World War II veterans and war plant workers to agriculture and to the increased flow of migratory and interstate workers. The availability of domestic workers, local and interstate, is considerably greater than many had anticipated.

Fall Labor Needs: Even with this improvement in labor supply, workers are not yet in sight to meet the needs which will pile up, starting September 15 and continuing into November, in areas of high production in fruit, vegetables, cotton and nuts. We were able to squeeze through last fall, with smaller production than is now indicated for this year, because in addition to available domestic help, we had the services, at the September-November peak, of 125,000 German prisoners of war and 90,000 foreign workers. There will be no prisoners and not more than 60,000 or 70,000 foreign workers this fall. In the high producing areas, the harvest, under present conditions, will call for the services of many thousand full and part time emergency workers. In these areas there will be work for men, women, boys and girls.

How Newspapers, Magazines, Radio and National and Local Advertising Can Help Get This Extra Emergency Labor: By conditioning the public for response to the local calls for help when they are issued in the fall. Recruiting efforts are localized on a state, county, area or community basis, as needs may be. No national recruiting campaign is required, because need for workers and the type of workers will vary from state to state and area to area.

Sources of Reliable and Up-to-Date Information: National and local advertising agencies and advertisers, newspaper publishers, radio stations and any others who want to help, are requested to support the campaign through all channels of information including news stories, broadcasts, articles, illustrated features, pictures, advertising, etc. Some advertisers will want to use separate ads and others will prefer to use "drop in" copy, in regular advertising. Industrialists and other business men will help through trade and professional publications and house organs. Individuals or organizations desiring to contribute any of this type of support can obtain reliable and up-to-the-minute information from these sources:

1. At national level: Extension Farm Labor Program office, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. (Farm labor information office, Rm. 6405 So. Bldg.; Telephone - Republic 4142, Ext. 4984).
2. State level: State farm labor and Extension Service offices, State land-grant colleges.
3. County and community level: Office of county agricultural agent.

Information for Guidance of Recruits

Those who have a season to contribute in farm work, should contact the county agricultural agent or the farm labor office. The county agent is usually located at the county seat. In cities where there is no county agent office, information generally is available at farm labor or other public employment offices, including United States Employment Offices.

Those who have less than an entire season, or only part-time, to devote to farm work, should stand by for the local call for workers in their towns, cities and counties. This call will be made through newspaper, radio and other avenues of communication.

Those who are seeking year-round farm work, whether experienced or inexperienced in this work, should contact the county agricultural agent, or the farm labor office. One or both will be found in most counties. Where neither is located, a public employment office, like USES, generally has information. There are openings for year-round workers in almost all farming areas.

Prevailing Wages and Rates are Higher: While the recruiting is on a voluntary basis, it does not carry the contribution of time and effort without financial return. Prevailing wage and piecework rates are paid to all who work. These rates vary from state to state, and community to community. According to "Farm Labor" (Bureau of Agricultural Economics, USDA, July 12, 1946) wage rates of hired farm workers in the U. S., were 8% higher than a year earlier and highest on record. Wage rates have risen 10% since April 1, about double usual increase during the quarter.

Information Materials: At the Federal extension office in Washington, printed and duplicated materials in support of the farm labor program, have been prepared for use in the states. Copies are available at the county agent, farm labor and state farm labor offices or at the Office of Information, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. See May 1 Fact Sheet for list.



